

U.S.-NIGERIA BINATIONAL COMMISSION

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ, JUNE 2012

The U.S.-Nigeria Binational Commission met on June 4-5, 2012 in Washington, DC, convening four working groups: Good Governance, Transparency, and Integrity; Regional Security; Energy and Investment; and Agriculture and Food Security. The delegations were led by Nigeria's Foreign Minister Olugbenga Ashiru and the United States' Deputy Secretary of State William Burns.

The Nigerian delegation included the Governors of Borno, Kano, Rivers, and Taraba States; officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; the Ministry of Water Resources; the Office of the National Security Advisor; the National Assembly; the Bulk Electricity Trading Company; the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC); the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission; and the Special Task Force on Petroleum Revenues. The U.S. delegation included officials from the United States Department of State, National Security Staff, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Energy, the Department of Justice, the U.S. Export-Import Bank, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, the Government Accountability Office, and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. U.S. private sector companies also participated in the discussions.

Recognizing the importance and urgency of a peaceful, prosperous, and united Nigeria, the United States Government and the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria reiterated their commitment to advancing good governance, economic development, rule of law, human rights, and security.

Both countries recognized the imperatives of all tiers of government in building a prosperous and just Nigeria, and reaffirmed commitments to transparency and accountability from local to national levels that include strong community engagement efforts. To support those commitments, Nigeria intends to widen its budgetary transparency efforts to include public asset declarations by parliamentarians and other senior public officials.

The United States commits to increase its engagement with Nigeria's electoral institutions and civil society to maintain the momentum established by last year's elections and support long-term strategies for upcoming gubernatorial polls and nationwide elections in 2015. Nigeria intends to encourage civil society in its efforts in view of their important role in improving public confidence in election results, and INEC intends to provide the U.S. government with an institutional needs assessment to help the working group prioritize its capacity building efforts.

The United States is committed to pursuing further cooperation with Nigeria to enhance the investigation and prosecution of financial crimes and public corruption in Nigeria, taking advantage of strong Nigerian leadership on these issues. The United States commits to help strengthen the capacity of the Nigerian Police Force to effectively control and investigate serious crimes while respecting human rights, and bolster the interdiction and law enforcement capabilities of the National Drug and Law Enforcement Agency to combat international drug trafficking and related organized crime. The United States intends to help Nigeria strengthen the capacity of the legislative branch charged with anti-corruption and police reform efforts. Both countries commit to strengthen and empower civilian oversight bodies to better address issues of accountability and law enforcement. Recognizing the importance of a trusted and secure system of national identification, the United States and Nigeria intend to collaborate to strengthen Nigeria's national identity management system.

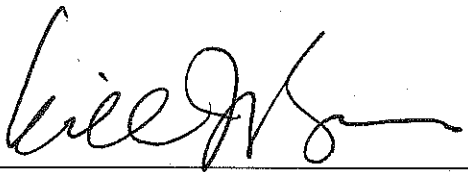
Nigeria and the United States commit to working together to increase public confidence in the ability of Nigerian military and police units to respond effectively, appropriately, and professionally to the violent extremism threat. The two countries recognize that security responses should be undertaken in the context of broader governmental efforts to respond to economic and political concerns of Nigerians. Both countries plan to establish a sub-working group to support Nigeria's efforts to create an intelligence fusion center that would coordinate Nigeria's intelligence collection, analysis, and dissemination efforts.

Given that Nigeria's laudable efforts in power sector reform are reaching a crucial stage, the United States is committed to helping Nigeria strengthen its regulatory environment and address implementation issues to attract significant international private investment in the sector.

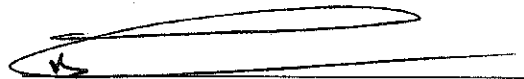
Through improved trade and investment policies, the Nigerian and U.S. governments intend to better harness Nigeria's natural resources for long-term development and growth. The Nigerian government commits to do its best to ensure a seven day maximum period for clearing goods through its ports. The Nigerian government plans to look into U.S. concerns about a ban on re-exporting oil services equipment as well as World Trade Organization compliance associated with the Local Content Act.

Recognizing Nigeria's vital role in regional food security, the United States and Nigeria pledge to work together to strengthen Nigeria's domestic and foreign agricultural policies for the benefit of Nigeria and the West Africa region. The United States plans to support Nigeria's efforts to promote regional trade, expand agricultural lending, and strengthen domestic policies that will encourage private investment in the agriculture sector. In support of Nigeria's Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) Commitment, the Nigerian government recommits to allocate at least ten percent of the national budget to the agricultural sector and to achieve annual growth in the agricultural sector of at least six percent. The United States and Nigeria plan to review a greater U.S. role in the water sector particularly water supply, irrigation, dams, and hydropower.

Both countries plan to convene the Niger Delta Working Group in Nigeria in the summer or fall of 2012.



Ambassador William J. Burns
Deputy Secretary
Department of State
United States of America



Ambassador (Dr.) Martin I. Uhomoibhi
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Federal Republic of Nigeria